

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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SS-15 /084 W

-----092942 140134Z /73

R 121300Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0924

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DJIBOUTI 0684

DEPARTMENT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, EAID, MILI, DJ, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESENCE DJIBOUTI

1. KIDNAPPING OF FRENCH CITIZEN EMPLOYEE OF GOVERNMENT OF DJIBOUTI BY AFAR DISSIDENT GROUP HAS AGAIN RAISED ISSUE OF FRENCH PRESENCE DJIBOUTI IN FRENCH PRESS. ADDENDUM TO ARTICLE APPEARING IN AUTHORITATIVE FRENCH NEWSPAPER "LE MONDE" ON 9 MAY CONTAINS INFORMATION WHICH IS SOMETIMES MISLEADING AND INCORRECT. FOR THAT REASON, EMBASSY PRESENTS FOLLOWING SUMMARY FRENCH PRESENCE IN REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI:

2. FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE -- APPROXIMATELY 4,500 MEN UNDER COMMAND FRENCH LT. GENERAL GAREN. THIS FIGURE IS COMPOSED OF APPROXIMATELY 1,100 FOREIGN LEGIONNAIRES, 1,400 GENDARMES,
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1,000 REGULAR ARMY, 800 FRENCH AIRFORCE AND ABOUT 200 FRENCH NAVY. TOTAL FIGURE DOES NOT INCLUDE FRENCH REGULAR NAVY CONTINGENT UNDER ALINDIEN WHICH TENDS TO VARY WIDELY ACCORDING TO SHIPS IN PORT. FIGURE DOES NOT INCLUDE FRENCH MILITARY SECONDED TO FRENCH COOPERATION AGENCY.

3. FRENCH CIVILIAN PRESENCE -- FRENCH COOPERATION OFFICE

SUPERVISES UTILIZATION OF APPROXIMATELY 350 CIVILIANS AND 200 MILITARY. OF THE CIVILIANS, ABOUT 250 ARE ENGAGED IN TEACHING PROFESSION. THE MILITARY ARE ASSIGNED TO DJIBOUTI MILITARY STAFF AND INSTRUCTOR POSITIONS.

4. TOTAL FRENCH PRESENCE, INCLUDING PRIVATE BUSINESS PEOPLE, DEPENDENTS OF MILITARY AND COOPERATION EMPLOYEES, IS ESTIMATED AT 12,000. THIS FIGURE IS 2,000 MORE THAN INDICATED IN "LE MONDE" ARTICLE, BUT IS VERIFIED BY FRENCH EMBASSY DJIBOUTI.

5. COSTS OF MAINTAINING FRENCH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PRESENCE IN DJIBOUTI, INCLUDING AID PROGRAMS AND SUBSIDIES, ARE APPROXIMATELY BTLS. 200 MILLION AT CURRENT ANNUAL RATES. PROPORTION BETWEEN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN ASSISTANCE AND EXPENDITURES IS 65-35. FRENCH PROVIDE ALL COSTS DJIBOUTI EDUCATION, DEFENSE AND JUSTICE MINISTRIES. FRENCH INDIAN OCEAN FLEET (ALINDIEN) COSTS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE TOTAL.
CLARKE

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